

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 51-54 and 57-89, with claims 90-100 having previously been withdrawn by the Examiner from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 51 has been amended to better define the invention and to incorporate subject matter previously appearing in claim 56. Accordingly, claim 56 has been canceled, and claim 53 has been amended in view of the amendment to claim 51. In addition, claim 52 has been amended to improve its form. Support for the claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the disclosure at pages 11-13, and the original claims and drawings. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 51-54, 56-58, 60-63, 65, 67, 68, 70-79, 80-84, and 87-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kensrue U.S. Patent No. 4,954,690*. The remaining claims were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kensrue* in view of *Fox U.S. Patent No. 4,937,417* (claims 59 and 64), *Hudson et al. U.S. Patent No. 2,808,498* (claim 66), *Huismann et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0016788* (claims 69 and 86), or what the Examiner calls Applicant Admitted Prior Art at page 16, line 8 of the specification (claim 85).

In response, Applicants have amended claim 51 to better define the invention and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in claim 51 as amended, Applicants' invention provides a welding torch including a torch housing wherein a drive unit formed by at least one drive roller and one pressure roller as well as a drive motor is arranged in the torch housing for feeding a welding wire.

As recited in claim 51 as amended, the torch housing includes a base body that forms a stator housing of the drive motor of the drive unit. The drive motor includes a stator winding or stator magnets directly installed in the base body of the torch housing. The bearings are provided on or within the base body of the torch housing to stabilize and position a rotor of the drive motor.

The primary reference to Kensrue fails to disclose or suggest a welding torch wherein the torch housing includes a base body that forms a stator housing of the drive motor of the drive unit. According to Kensrue, the motor unit represents a complete

unit which will be arranged inside the casing 20 of the welding torch. In contrast, Applicants' welding torch as recited in claim 51, as amended, has parts of an electric drive motor directly installed in the torch housing with a part of this torch housing designed as the stator housing of the drive motor.

As recited in claim 51 as amended, a base body 37 of the torch housing 28 forms a stator housing of the drive motor 33.

In addition, the stator winding 47 or stator magnets are directly installed in the base body 37 of the torch housing 28.

It is respectfully submitted that *Kensrue* fails to disclose or suggest a base body as part of a torch housing which is designed as a stator housing of the drive motor of the drive unit.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Kensrue* fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' welding torch as recited in claim 51 as amended.

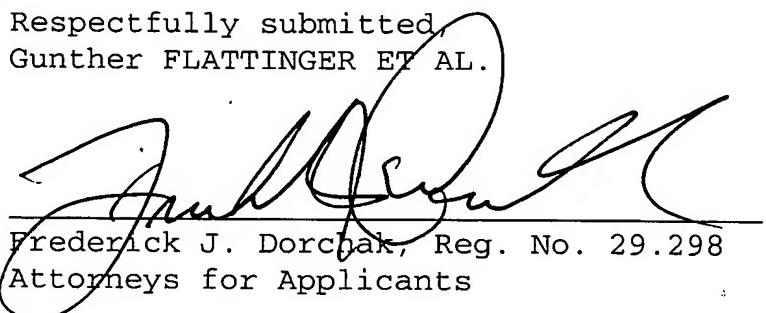
The remaining references cited by the Examiner against certain dependent claims including what the Examiner calls

Applicant Admitted Prior Art, have been considered but are believed to be no more relevant. None of these references or what has been purportedly admitted discloses or suggests a welding torch having the structure recited in Applicants' claim 51 as amended, wherein the torch housing comprises a base body that forms a stator housing of the drive motor of the drive unit, with the drive motor including a stator winding or stator magnets directly installed in the base body of the torch housing.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 51 as amended, together with claims 52-54, and 57-89, which depend directly or indirectly thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

In summary, claims 51-53 have been amended, and claim 56 has been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Gunther FLATTINGER ET AL.



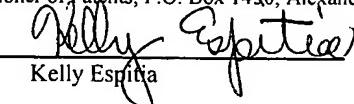
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